

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to typographical errors in the "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" (U.S.P.T.O. form PTO/SB/08) filed by Applicants on January 31, 2006. Specifically, Foreign Patent Document No. 1 should be -09324203-- and not "09324023." Also, Foreign Patent Document No. 3 should be --2004069403-- and not "2004063403."

By the present amendment, claims 1-8 and 12 have been amended to improve grammar and clarity and not for a reason related to patentability. More specifically, the claims have been amended to remove "step-plus-function" language, which has a broadening effect on the scope of the claims. New claim 13, which depends upon claim 2, recites subject matter that has been deleted from claim 2.

Thus, the present amendment has no further limiting effect on the scope of the claims. Furthermore, the present amendment adds no new matter to the above-captioned application.

The Examiner requires restriction of the present application, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372, to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-8 and 12, drawn to a powder lamination method;

Group II: Claim 9, drawn to treating an article formed by powder lamination; and

Group III: Claims 10 and 11, drawn to a data creation for powder lamination.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups I to III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they allegedly lack the same or corresponding special technical feature.


Applicants elect without traverse the invention of Group I, claims 1-8 and 12, for further prosecution on the merits. Applicants contend that new claim 13, which depends upon claim 2, pertains to the invention of Group I.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in good condition for examination.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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